Celebration of Life for

Deacon
Rufus Dartello Gutierrez
(Cookie)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

SUNRISE
February 6, 1944

SUNSET
April 29, 2021

Celebration of Life
Thursday, May 13, 2021
Glad Tidings International Church of God In Christ
970 Glad Tidings Way
Hayward, California 94545
Bishop J. W. Macklin, Host Pastor

Officiant
Superintendent Ronald G. Thompson, Sr.
Prayer Tower Church of God In Christ
Oakland, California

The Obituary

Rufus Dartello Gutierrez (born: Rufugio Dartello Gutierrez) affectionately known as "Cookie" was born in Eastland, Texas on February 6, 1944 to Parfirio Gutierrez and Virginia Albarez. At the age of 3 years old, Cruz and Vera Ybarra adopted him as their own and he joined with their three other children Maria Valdez Perez, Miguel Altamirano, and Salvador Hernandez Ybarra, all who proceeded him in death.

In 1949, the family relocated to Oakland, California. He was educated in the Oakland educational school system and graduated from Oakland Technical High School in 1962.

He served in Vietnam in the late 1960's. Once home from the military, he was employed at Valcan Foundry as well as the Continental Can company, both in Oakland, California. He was later employed for 42 years with the United States Postal Service (USPS) and received numerous Certificate of Awards until his retirement in 2008. However, while at the USPS, he met the love of his life, Lavada G. Williams.

On April 14, 1990, Dartello and Lavada united in holy matrimony in Castro Valley, California. He was an extraordinarily devoted, loving husband, step-father, grandfather and godfather. Dartello loved his wife and her entire family and they loved him too! All who knew him, loved how he loved his wife.

They traveled the world together, whether it was camping with the Happy Rollers or on one of their many cruises to the Caribbean, Mexico or to Paris, France, London, England and even parts of Canada. They enjoyed life together.

Through the years, the family grew and enjoyed family reunions -- from trips to R-Ranch at the Lake, to Disneyland and annual Christmas Eve dinner celebrations. On Christmas Eve (when the grandchildren were small) after the family ate and sang Christmas Carols, Dartello would dress up as Santa Claus and pass out presents to the grandchildren. They loved grandpa Dart.

Dartello accepted and received the Lord as his personal savior and received the Holy Ghost. He became a member and later a deacon at Perry Temple COGIC. He would study his word and at times taught Sunday School and would expound on God's Word during Men's Day services.

After the passing of the love of his life, the Lord led him to join Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ in Oakland, where his son-in-law Supt. Ronald G. Thompson, Sr. pastors. He enjoyed Sunday morning services, Bible Study and fellowship with the saints there.

In the year of two thousand and twenty, his health began to rapidly decline, and at the invitation of his daughter he made the decision to move to Garner, North Carolina. He absolutely loved it in North Carolina. He loved spending time with his great granddaughters and visiting different sights. He especially enjoyed riding through the parks and always remarked at how beautiful and green it was there. He often remarked that he was quite happy and content with his decision to move from his home town of over 75 years. He would often tell people *"I don't like it here...I love it here!"* It was, however, in North Carolina where the Lord called him home from labor to reward.

Dartello Gutierrez leaves cherish memories to: Roy W. Williams III of Berkeley, CA; Gerald J. Kelley, Sr. (Perine) of Killeen, TX; Gwendolyn McClure of Garner, NC; Linda Chatman of Oakland, CA; Lavada Thompson (Ronald, Sr.) of Castro Valley; Phillip Kelley of Pittsburg, CA; Celeste Bosley of Sacramento, CA; and Chester Williams of Berkeley, CA. A loving niece Rose Schumucker (Eddie), two goddaughters: Candace Laughinghouse of Raleigh, NC and Jessica Ramos of Hayward.

Dartello was well loved and leaves to mourn his best friend of over 60 years, Albert Quinonous of Oregon. He also leaves to mourn a loving niece Rose Schumucker (Eddie), 40 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, many cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of relatives and friends along with the Prayer Tower church Family.

Dartello, Cookie, Cook, Papa Dart, Daddy Dart, Grandpa Dart, Great Cookie,
Mr. Rufus ... we'll see you in the morning!

CELEBRATING THE LIFE
OF
Deacon Rufus Dartello Gutierrez

Thursday, May 13, 2021
11:00 AM

MASTER OF CEREMONY
Superintendent Ronald Thompson, Sr., Pastor - Prayer Tower COGIC

MUSICAL PRELUDE ..... Minister Sylvester Burks

PROCESSIONAL ..... Clergy and Family

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS
OLD TESTAMENT ---- NEW TESTAMENT

SELECTION ..... Sister Arteria Davenport

FAMILY TRIBUTE ..... Gwendolyn McClure

EXPRESSIONS ..... Al and Kathy Quinonus
..... Rose Schmucker

Expressions Limit first 3 -- 2 minutes each

SELECTION ..... Pastor Robert Lyons, Refreshing Fountain COGIC

REFLECTIONS ..... L.Q. Pugh, Assistant Pastor, Prayer Tower COGIC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CONDOLENCES/RESOLUTIONS
Beulah Johnson, Dist. Miss'y/Church Mother

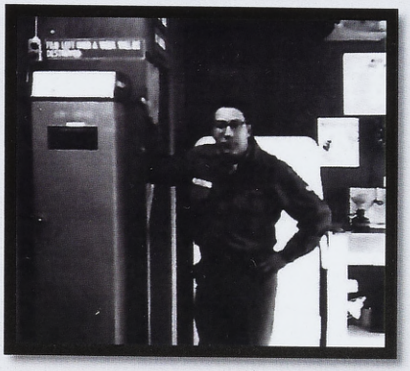
OBITUARY ..... Sister Joyce Pugh Prayer Tower COGIC

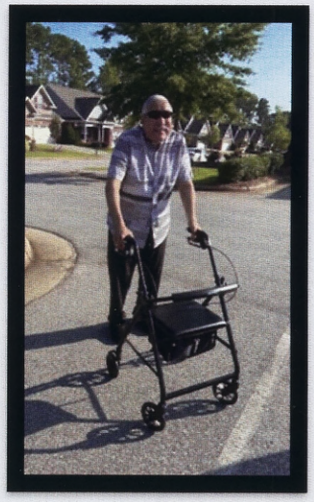
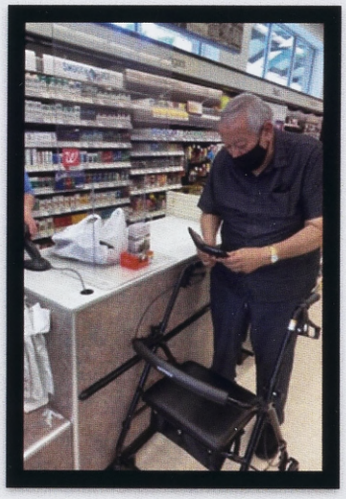
SERMONIC SELECTION ..... Sister Arteria Davenport

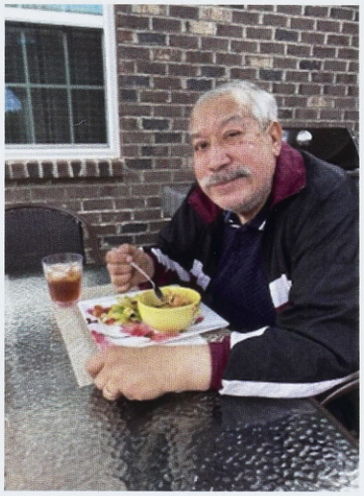
EULOGY Superintendent. Ronald G. Thompson, Sr
Pastor, Prayer Tower COGIC/ Bay Cities District

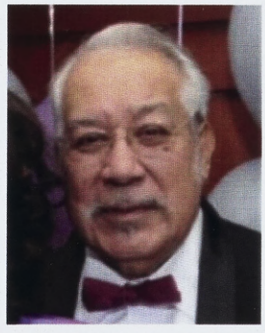
GLIMPSE TIL GLORY ..... Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home - In charge

RECESSIONAL







SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bishop J. W. Macklin & Missionary Vanessa Macklin
Glad Tidings International, COGIC - Bereavement Staff
Bishop Stenneth E. Powell & Lady Beverly Powell
Abundant Life Cathedral COGIC
Lady Lavada Thompson
Prayer Tower COGIC

FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the family of Deacon Gutierrez, please accept our sincere gratitude for the love and kindness you have shown during this challenging hour in our lives.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS INTRUSTED TO:

Carlton L. Gray Funeral & Cremation Service

2810 Kidd Road, Raleigh, NC 27610

and

Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home

3665 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA

INTERNMENT

Rolling Hills Memorial Park

Hilltop Drive, El Sobrante, CA 94803

Due to COVID -19 restrictions -- THERE WILL BE NO REPASS